

Recently, Secretary Yellen told us that the child tax credit has already reduced poverty in our country by 25 percent, just with the first three checks. Imagine what continuation of this important program will do.

This is huge for American families who are struggling to put food on the table, with Latino and Black families suffering the most. The child tax credit would help the parents of almost 8.8 million children nationwide who are going hungry during this pandemic.

Madam Speaker, now is the moment. It is time to do better for our children.

The Build Back Better agenda will bring universal pre-K to our kids and end childcare deserts, an issue that affects children and families in my district and across America. Without pre-K or childcare, parents are forced to choose between their family or their job.

In fact, just a few months ago, I visited a childcare facility that struggled to keep up with the demand due to the lack of childcare infrastructure in Houston. We need to invest in this critical infrastructure for children, for working parents, and for care workers.

Madam Speaker, care workers are essential. They care for our loved ones every day and keep this country running. We need to build back better with investments for our care workers so that their families can have better futures. We need to build back better for the almost one in two adults over 65 in Texas with multiple chronic medical conditions.

Altogether, the Build Back Better agenda will make sure that millions of people in this country and in my home State of Texas gain affordable healthcare coverage. I represent a district that struggles to get vital coverage because the Republican-controlled State government has refused to accept the Federal dollars to expand Medicaid. This is how we build back better for the people who need critical care.

Families deserve that. They also deserve to unlock the American Dream through affordable housing so they can live with dignity. We need investments in first-generation home buyers and affordable housing, housing vouchers, and more infrastructure so that families can say "mi casa es su casa."

The Build Back Better agenda will do just that, but we must work hard. We must work hard to also provide a pathway to citizenship for the hundreds and thousands of Dreamers, TPS holders, and essential workers. They have been contributing to our economy, keeping this country running, and making it prosper.

The Build Back Better agenda will deliver on the American Dream promise and the values on which this Nation of immigrants was founded. It would fulfill the "give me your tired, your poor, your huddled masses yearning to breathe free."

The Build Back Better agenda is an American agenda fulfilling this prom-

ise. The Build Back Better agenda is by and for the American people that will allow our country, our families, and our women to heal from this horrible pandemic and build back better with wealthy people and corporations paying their fair share.

This is why we are here in Congress, fighting for the people, fighting for our children, and building a better future so our mothers can rejoin the workforce, so our seniors can get care that will allow them to live with dignity, so our children can get the care they need without having to worry about poverty or going to school hungry, so our families can say "mi casa es su casa" and live with dignity in their own homes.

This is how we build back better for all. Our country doesn't leave anyone behind, so this is how we honor the 329.5 million Americans: building back better for everyone. This is how we honor every single one of them.

Madam Speaker, our time is now. We must get this done. So let's go and build back better now.

#### ASSAULT ON AMERICAN WAY OF LIFE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Illinois (Mrs. MILLER) for 5 minutes.

Mrs. MILLER of Illinois. Madam Speaker, we face an unprecedented assault on the American way of life by the radical left.

Under President Biden's leadership, the left has weaponized the Federal Government to go after the American people.

President Biden is building an IRS army of 85,000 new IRS agents to investigate middle-class Americans and ruin their lives. The Biden IRS wants the power to spy on private citizens' bank accounts and monitor their transactions.

Biden's Treasury Secretary said her next goal is to create a new tax on the value of farmland in America. This will destroy the American family farm and eliminate independent food production.

The Biden-Harris administration is also weaponizing OSHA to fire Americans who live paycheck to paycheck if they don't make a healthcare decision about vaccines that leftwing politicians don't like.

Madam Speaker, I note this hypocrisy from pro-abortion liberals who use the "my body my choice" slogan. We watched last week as Biden's Attorney General tried to defend the use of the FBI agents who intimidated, harassed, and want to spy on parents who show up to school board meetings to speak in opposition to the Biden agenda.

Middle-class parents are rightfully outraged that President Biden and leftwing school boards want to turn their children against each other with racist curriculum or indoctrinate their young children with perverted sexual content.

Americans used to be protected by the First Amendment. They were allowed to speak freely in our society.

Our Constitution and Bill of Rights limit the power of the Federal Government because our Nation is a place where people should be free to start independent small businesses and raise their own children.

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The Biden administration and the radical left have a far different agenda. They want to use the FBI to intimidate and harass Americans; they want to use the IRS to spy on Americans; and they want to use OSHA to fire Americans.

The Federal Government is now a tool, a weapon that they want to use to make Americans obey. My constituents and the American people will not be intimidated by the Biden administration or the radical left, Madam Speaker. We are born free and our rights come from God.

Our response to a weaponized Federal Government is loud and clear. In the spirit of freedom, we say: Let's go, Brandon.

#### RECOGNIZING GRANT WOODS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. STANTON) for 5 minutes.

Mr. STANTON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of a fine Arizona public servant who we unexpectedly lost just a few days ago: Grant Woods, our State's former attorney general, someone who made a lasting impact on every person he met and on our State and on our Nation.

Before he was an elected official in his own right, Grant was a staff member right here in the people's House. Then-Congressman John McCain chose Grant as his first chief of staff and they formed a friendship that lasted the rest of the great Senator's life.

They had a lot in common. They believed in bipartisanship and compromise, and they were both willing to ruffle a few feathers if they thought it was the right thing to do. And when it counted most, they lived by the most simple creed: country first.

In the 1990s, as Arizona's top law enforcement official, Grant earned a reputation as a fighter for the little guy, and for good reason. He was one of the attorneys general who took on Big Tobacco and won, earning the largest civil settlement in our Nation's history on behalf of countless Arizonans who had been harmed.

After he left elected office, he continued his crusades as one of the Nation's top trial attorneys. He was a true Renaissance man, a writer and a musician, and he was a passionate supporter of the arts and local artists. In fact, he is a member of the Arizona Music Hall of Fame.

He was a tireless advocate for children. In fact, there is a Boys & Girls Club in the East Valley named after Grant Woods. No one was a bigger fan of Arizona sports and sports teams than Grant Woods, and he was an occasional critic of those teams when they deserved it.

Grant reminded us that public service isn't about partisanship. It is about making life a little bit easier for the hardworking people you serve. His passing is a tremendous loss for all of Arizona. He will be forever remembered for his faithful service to our State, our country, and our democracy.

#### SITUATION AT THE BORDER IS A COMPLETE AND TOTAL CRISIS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Ms. GARCIA of Texas). The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Florida (Mr. RUTHERFORD) for 5 minutes.

Mr. RUTHERFORD. Madam Speaker, I rise today to speak against the amnesty provisions included in the Democratic reconciliation bill.

The situation at the border is a complete and total crisis. Many folks look at what is happening there and they think it is incompetence by the Biden-Harris administration but, Madam Speaker, that is not true. Yes, there is a lot of incompetency in the Biden-Harris administration, but the southern border is not a failed policy. It is the policy.

The Democrats want illegal aliens to come to America as part of the social-ist plan. In fact, the Democrat reconciliation bill is a plan that would give amnesty to over 8 million illegal aliens—over 8 million. There is no provision to actually secure the southern border or to fix the problem at the source.

This blanket amnesty for over 8 million illegal aliens rewards law-breakers, empowers cartels, and encourages more people to make a very dangerous journey to our border. Amnesty for over 8 million illegal aliens is an outrageous proposal and must be defeated.

CONGRATULATIONS TO FIGHT CRIME: INVEST IN KIDS

Mr. RUTHERFORD. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate an organization, Fight Crime: Invest In Kids. It is a tremendous organization that 25 years ago understood that if you are going to fight crime in a community you have to fight crime with what I used to call the entire PIE: prevention, intervention, and enforcement.

And Fight Crime: Invest In Kids has been doing this for 25 years now, and I want to congratulate them on the untold number of young lives that they have saved and that they have kept out of a life of crime.

Congratulations to Fight Crime: Invest In Kids.

#### THE NATIONAL "BIG UGLY"

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. TENNEY) for 5 minutes.

Ms. TENNEY. Madam Speaker, for the past several months, my colleagues across the aisle have struggled to advance their budget reconciliation bill. The reason is simple: It is a disastrous piece of legislation that the American

people simply don't want now that they are starting to find out what is actually in it.

When I served in Albany, we called these bloated budget bills, and ones just like this the "Big Ugly," and ugly this is.

I rise today to urge my colleagues to oppose our national "Big Ugly," which will raise corporation taxes, and that includes small businesses and family farms, to 26.5 percent, one of the highest rates in the world, and higher than the Communist Party of China charges their corporations.

Despite assurances from the administration, low- and middle-income taxpayers—and that includes, again, our small businesses and family farms, which are the heart of our communities which drive our economy—they will bear the brunt of this bill's \$2 trillion-plus increase in taxes.

Meanwhile, elite universities, left-leaning media outlets, and families earning more than \$800,000 per year will receive major tax benefits or breaks. This bill also allocates billions of dollars to Green New Deal policies while raising taxes on America's domestic energy producers.

As we approach winter in upstate New York—and it is cold, trust me—my constituents are facing some of the highest heating costs in recent memory. This bill's tax hikes on American energy producers are an insult to New York families who will be left struggling to pay their energy bills, especially those who are seniors on fixed incomes.

The point is simple: The Build Back Better plan is an endless list of progressive priorities that will add trillions of dollars to our national debt and worsen skyrocketing inflation, which is nothing more than a tax on the people who can least afford it: people on fixed incomes, people struggling to make a living.

Dictators from Russia to China, Putin to Xi, are counting on us to support our national "Big Ugly," the Democrats' Build Back Better plan, the budget reconciliation plan, that will secure Putin and Xi's economic and energy dominance for decades to come. This will irreparably hurt Americans across the board.

I urge my colleagues to vote against this. Come up with a better plan that actually empowers American businesses, and especially the small businesses who create most of the jobs and drive our economy, and again, our family farms which are the tradition and heart of our communities, especially in upstate New York.

#### INFLATION CRISIS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. MEUSER) for 5 minutes.

Mr. MEUSER. Madam Speaker, I was in a grocery store on Sunday and nearly a dozen of my constituents stopped

me and were very upset about product shortages and price increases.

According to the data, eggs are up 12 percent, bacon is up 20 percent, chicken is up 8 percent, gasoline is up 40 to 50 percent, hamburger and beef are running short. I can assure you, Madam Speaker, while these data points paint a picture, price increases are just simply much higher, and my constituents are feeling the effects in their family budgets.

An older gentleman with a half-full shopping cart that rang up for \$111 glanced up at me and said: This is ridiculous. There are people filling their gas tanks now—before it was \$50, now it is \$80, \$90, \$100 to fill up a pickup truck because, Madam Speaker, the President and Members of this House—in fact, the leadership of this House—has decided to attack domestic energy production, which is clearly driving prices up through the roof.

With winter around the corner, it will cost 30 percent more to heat an average person's home. Yet, the Democrats are trying to implement a home heating tax—that is a wonderful idea—in the so-called Build Back Better bill that will drive energy bills even higher.

Madam Speaker, how is this helpful? How is it helpful to raise costs to tax our domestic energy while making it more competitive for Russia and Saudi Arabia and all the other places in the world to sell us their energy, so-called cheaper, when meanwhile a barrel of oil is over \$80 a barrel. It makes no sense.

And the thing is this, the American people get this. The American people know it. They are paying the price for it. Members here will pay the price at the polls because this bill called Build Back Better is a disaster, Madam Speaker.

This is seventh grade economics. There is too much demand created by Big Government policies and not enough supply, not enough workers because we are providing far too much incentive for them not to work. Why would they, if they are making more not working? We are not doing anything to help our U.S. productivity to fulfill the demand that is being created by these Big Government policies.

All the while, foreign imports are pouring in and creating a bottleneck at our ports that we all see because we don't have the capacity, number one, to build in the USA to fulfill the demand; but number two, to unload the cargo ships and distribute the goods and then put them in trucks and ship them around the country.

So even the Treasury Secretary is warning Americans that inflation will be here throughout the next year, even though the President and others have said: Oh, no, this is just a passing problem. Nobody has to worry about it.

So what is the plan moving forward for the majority in this House, for the Democrats? They want to prime the demand side of the equation with a multi-trillion dollar spending bill